

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** - Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez (CA-47) today issued the following statement regarding reports that government officials intentionally obscured the details surrounding immigrant deaths at U.S. detention centers. The story was first broken over the weekend in the New York Times ("[Officials Hid Truth of Immigrant Deaths in Jail](#)"):

"I am outraged by recent reports that some Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials tried to obscure the details surrounding immigrant deaths at America's detention centers. The lack of transparency and, in some cases, outright deception in these cases is absolutely unacceptable.

"In December, my subcommittee held a hearing on proposed reforms to the Department of Homeland Security's immigration detention system. Currently, DHS has a record 33,400 undocumented immigrants in detention at over 350 local, state, and government facilities across the country. I have always advocated that DHS explore alternatives to detention for undocumented immigrants who pose a limited security threat to our country, and it is clear that greater attention must also be given to detainee care.

"I have no doubt that ICE will provide stricter oversight of its operations in the wake of this story, but Congress must also be involved to guarantee transparency and accountability. As Vice Chair of the House Homeland Security Committee, I will continue to ask tough questions of our security agencies and ensure they are taking concrete steps to restore the public trust."

# # #